

(Mr. YOUNG), and our ranking member, the gentleman from California (Mr. MILLER), for their sponsorship and support of this bill as well.

Mr. Speaker, this bill resolves an ongoing dispute between the Forest Service and a radio station, KATY, regarding the station's unauthorized use of a Forest Service site. H.R. 3657 would require the Secretary of Agriculture to convey for fair market value 1.06 acres within the San Bernardino National Forest in Riverside County, California to KATY. The bill requires KATY to pay \$16,600 (representing rent for 1996–99 without interest) to the Secretary. It also provides that the Forest Service is not required to provide access to the site as it would for an official communications site. I urge my colleagues to support it.

Mrs. BONO. Mr. Speaker, H.R. 3657 would provide for the conveyance at fair market value of a small tract of Forest Service land in the San Bernardino National Forest to a locally-owned radio station that serves mountain communities in my district. I would like to thank Chairman YOUNG and Chairman CHENOWETH-HAGE for their assistance in bringing this bill to the floor.

In 1988, Cliff and Katy Gill began a search for an antenna site that would allow them to obtain an FCC construction permit for a radio station to serve Idyllwild, California, a community of about 3000 residents located at 5200 feet elevation in the San Jacinto Mountains. The community is nestled in mountainous terrain and surrounded by the San Bernardino National Forest and other State and local park land. The Gills discovered that the rugged terrain sharply limited the sites that could host an antenna capable of reaching the residents of Idyllwild, the neighboring mountain communities, and the highway that connects them to the valley below. Wanting to start up their station, the Gills ultimately went on the air in December 1989 from a temporary antenna on a time-share private campground. Mr. Gill named this new radio station, KATY-FM, for his wife Katy.

However, because the original site for the antenna drastically limited KATY's coverage, the Gills kept looking. The Gills first searched for sites on private land. But with the private land constituting only a small island—only a few hundred acres—within the sea of public land, it soon became apparent that the only workable sites would be found on public land. Six years later, they thought they had found the perfect site. GTE had operated a small wooden communications tower in the San Bernardino National Forest for 30 years under a Forest Service special use permit. GTE offered to sublease to KATY space on their tower and in their small equipment shed. In 1995, after seven years of searching for an antenna site, the Gills moved onto the GTE tower and gained the coverage they had long sought for their station.

Unfortunately, they were soon informed by the District Ranger that they must strip their antenna from the GTE tower and vacate the site. Petitions signed by almost half the residents of Idyllwild, its Chamber of Commerce, and others did not budge the agency. The Forest Service maintained that subleasing of tower space could only occur on sites that had been formally designated as communications

sites in the forest plans and that this site had not received such a designation in the San Bernardino plan. The agency argued that, even though it had allowed this site to be used as a communications site for three decades and was continuing to permit such use by GTE, KATY was in trespass and GTE had violated its special use authorization. The Forest Service continued to insist that KATY leave even as the station was proving how critically important it is to the communities it serves.

Because of their location in rugged country, Idyllwild and neighboring mountain communities are vulnerable to extreme weather and other adverse natural events. In recognition of this and in its effort to provide the best possible public service, KATY signed an agreement with the local 10-watt emergency broadcast station, WNKI, which has very limited coverage, to broadcast WNKI's emergency bulletins. Shortly thereafter, the Federal Communications Commission and the California State Office of Emergency Services selected KATY as the Local Primary Station to broadcast information in the event of disaster.

KATY's dedication to providing emergency service paid off for the mountain communities in 1996 when the Bee Canyon fire raged through 9000 acres in their vicinity. KATY broadcast the mandatory evacuation orders and the announcement that it was safe to return home. In all, KATY aired nearly 200 announcements that were closely monitored not only by the residents but also by the firefighters and other emergency service personnel. Again, in 1998 KATY broadcast the mandatory order to evacuate the community of Juniper Flats also threatened by fire during severe thunderstorms.

My late husband took up the cause of KATY. In August 1996, he and Chairman YOUNG wrote a letter to the Secretary of Agriculture requesting his assistance in permitting KATY to retain its antenna site. This was followed by letters from the chairman and ranking minority member of the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee and the chairman of the Interior subcommittee of the Senate Appropriations Committee. Finally, a House-Senate conference committee added to the Omnibus Parks and Public Lands Management Act of 1996 a provision requiring the Secretary of Agriculture to consider whether maintaining the KATY antenna site was in the public interest and to report his conclusions to Congress.

That report was never delivered to Congress. A draft of the report would have offered a new site for KATY's antenna on a neighboring mountain in the San Bernardino National Forest. When the Forest Service learned from KATY that placing the antenna on that site would be prohibited by three FCC regulations, the agency approached Cliff and Katy Gill and asked if they would entertain purchasing the antenna site. I am happy to say that H.R. 3657 is the product of subsequent amicable negotiations between the Gills and the agency.

I want to assure my colleagues that this purchase will have no discernible impact on the National Forest or the environment. The tract to be purchased is only approximately 1.06 acres in size. It is on the very edge of the National Forest, directly adjacent to a residential

development. The station has purchased the neighboring residential lot to assure access to the antenna site. The tower and equipment shed are shielded by tall evergreen trees and large rocks and are not visible above Inspiration Point where the site is located.

The bill would require that KATY pay fair market value for the tract and an additional sum of \$16,600 to settle any claims the government might have for the unauthorized occupation of national forest land. That sum represents the rent that the Gills should have paid to the Forest Service for use of the site. Although the Gills paid more than twice that amount in rent to GTE under the sublease, they believe this is a fair resolution. I appreciate the efforts of the Forest Service to design a good solution to a difficult problem.

Cliff Gill passed away last year before he saw enactment of this bill and fulfillment of his dream. We can ensure that his widow, Katy, will be able to continue KATY's service to the community by enacting H.R. 3657. I urge passage of this bill.

Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. WALDEN of Oregon. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. WALDEN) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 3657, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof) the rules were suspended and the bill, as amended, was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

□ 1600

FORT PECK RESERVATION RURAL WATER SYSTEM ACT OF 2000

Mr. WALDEN of Oregon. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the Senate bill (S. 624) to authorize construction of the Fort Peck Reservation Rural Water System in the State of Montana, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read as follows:

S. 624

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Fort Peck Reservation Rural Water System Act of 2000".

SEC. 2. PURPOSES.

The purposes of this Act are—

(1) *to ensure a safe and adequate municipal, rural, and industrial water supply for the residents of the Fort Peck Indian Reservation in the State of Montana; and*

(2) *to assist the citizens of Roosevelt, Sheridan, Daniels, and Valley Counties in the State, outside the Fort Peck Indian Reservation, in developing safe and adequate municipal, rural, and industrial water supplies.*

SEC. 3. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act:

(1) *ASSINIBOINE AND SIOUX RURAL WATER SYSTEM.—The term "Assiniboine and Sioux Rural Water System" means the rural water system*

within the Fort Peck Indian Reservation authorized by section 4.

(2) **DRY PRAIRIE RURAL WATER SYSTEM.**—The term “Dry Prairie Rural Water System” means the rural water system authorized by section 5 in the Roosevelt, Sheridan, Daniels, and Valley Counties of the State.

(3) **FORT PECK RESERVATION RURAL WATER SYSTEM.**—The term “Fort Peck Reservation Rural Water System” means the Assiniboine and Sioux Rural Water System and the Dry Prairie Rural Water System.

(4) **FORT PECK TRIBES.**—The term “Fort Peck Tribes” means the Assiniboine and Sioux Indian Tribes within the Fort Peck Indian Reservation.

(5) **PICK-SLOAN.**—The term “Pick-Sloan” means the Pick-Sloan Missouri River Basin Program (authorized by section 9 of the Act entitled “An Act authorizing the construction of certain public works on rivers and harbors for flood control, and for other purposes”, approved December 22, 1944 (commonly known as the “Flood Control Act of 1944”) (58 Stat. 891)).

(6) **SECRETARY.**—The term “Secretary” means the Secretary of the Interior.

(7) **STATE.**—The term “State” means the State of Montana.

SEC. 4. ASSINIBOINE AND SIOUX RURAL WATER SYSTEM.

(a) **AUTHORIZATION.**—The Secretary shall plan, design, construct, operate, maintain, and replace a municipal, rural, and industrial water system, to be known as the “Assiniboine and Sioux Rural Water System”, as generally described in the report required by subsection (g)(2).

(b) **COMPONENTS.**—The Assiniboine and Sioux Rural Water System shall consist of—

(1) pumping and treatment facilities located along the Missouri River within the boundaries of the Fort Peck Indian Reservation;

(2) pipelines extending from the water treatment plant throughout the Fort Peck Indian Reservation;

(3) distribution and treatment facilities to serve the needs of the Fort Peck Indian Reservation, including—

(A) public water systems in existence on the date of enactment of this Act that may be purchased, improved, and repaired in accordance with the cooperative agreement entered into under subsection (c); and

(B) water systems owned by individual tribal members and other residents of the Fort Peck Indian Reservation;

(4) appurtenant buildings and access roads;

(5) all property and property rights necessary for the facilities described in this subsection;

(6) electrical power transmission and distribution facilities necessary for services to Fort Peck Reservation Rural Water System facilities; and

(7) such other pipelines, pumping plants, and facilities as the Secretary determines to be appropriate to meet the water supply, economic, public health, and environmental needs of the Fort Peck Indian Reservation, including water storage tanks, water lines, and other facilities for the Fort Peck Tribes and the villages, towns, and municipalities in the Fort Peck Indian Reservation.

(c) **COOPERATIVE AGREEMENT.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—The Secretary shall enter into a cooperative agreement with the Fort Peck Tribal Executive Board for planning, designing, constructing, operating, maintaining, and replacing the Assiniboine and Sioux Rural Water System.

(2) **MANDATORY PROVISIONS.**—The cooperative agreement under paragraph (1) shall specify, in a manner that is acceptable to the Secretary and the Fort Peck Tribal Executive Board—

(A) the responsibilities of each party to the agreement for—

(i) needs assessment, feasibility, and environmental studies;

(ii) engineering and design;

(iii) construction;

(iv) water conservation measures; and

(v) administration of contracts relating to performance of the activities described in clauses (i) through (iv);

(B) the procedures and requirements for approval and acceptance of the design and construction and for carrying out other activities described in subparagraph (A); and

(C) the rights, responsibilities, and liabilities of each party to the agreement.

(3) **OPTIONAL PROVISIONS.**—The cooperative agreement under paragraph (1) may include provisions relating to the purchase, improvement, and repair of water systems in existence on the date of enactment of this Act, including systems owned by individual tribal members and other residents of the Fort Peck Indian Reservation.

(4) **TERMINATION.**—The Secretary may terminate a cooperative agreement under paragraph (1) if the Secretary determines that—

(A) the quality of construction does not meet all standards established for similar facilities constructed by the Secretary; or

(B) the operation and maintenance of the Assiniboine and Sioux Rural Water System does not meet conditions acceptable to the Secretary that are adequate to fulfill the obligations of the United States to the Fort Peck Tribes.

(5) **TRANSFER.**—On execution of a cooperative agreement under paragraph (1), in accordance with the cooperative agreement, the Secretary may transfer to the Fort Peck Tribes, on a non-reimbursable basis, funds made available for the Assiniboine and Sioux Rural Water System under section 9.

(d) **SERVICE AREA.**—The service area of the Assiniboine and Sioux Rural Water System shall be the area within the boundaries of the Fort Peck Indian Reservation.

(e) **CONSTRUCTION REQUIREMENTS.**—The components of the Assiniboine and Sioux Rural Water System shall be planned and constructed to a size that is sufficient to meet the municipal, rural, and industrial water supply requirements of the service area of the Fort Peck Reservation Rural Water System.

(f) **TITLE TO ASSINIBOINE AND SIOUX RURAL WATER SYSTEM.**—Title to the Assiniboine and Sioux Rural Water System shall be held in trust by the United States for the Fort Peck Tribes and shall not be transferred unless a transfer is authorized by an Act of Congress enacted after the date of enactment of this Act.

(g) **LIMITATION ON AVAILABILITY OF CONSTRUCTION FUNDS.**—The Secretary shall not obligate funds for construction of the Assiniboine and Sioux Rural Water System until—

(1) the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.) are met with respect to the Assiniboine and Sioux Rural Water System;

(2) on or after the date that is 90 days after the date of submission to Congress of a final engineering report approved by the Secretary; and

(3) the Secretary publishes a written finding that the water conservation plan developed under section 7 includes prudent and reasonable water conservation measures for the operation of the Assiniboine and Sioux Rural Water System that have been shown to be economically and financially feasible.

(h) **TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.**—The Secretary shall provide such technical assistance as is necessary to enable the Fort Peck Tribes to plan, design, construct, operate, maintain, and replace the Assiniboine and Sioux Rural Water System, including operation and management training.

(i) **APPLICATION OF INDIAN SELF-DETERMINATION ACT.**—Planning, design, construction, operation, maintenance, and replacement of the

Assiniboine and Sioux Rural Water System within the Fort Peck Indian Reservation shall be subject to the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act (25 U.S.C. 450 et seq.).

(j) **COST SHARING.**—

(1) **CONSTRUCTION.**—The Federal share of the cost of construction of the Assiniboine and Sioux Rural Water System shall be 100 percent, and shall be funded through annual appropriations to the Bureau of Reclamation.

(2) **OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE.**—The Federal share of the cost of operation and maintenance of the Assiniboine and Sioux Rural Water System shall be 100 percent, and shall be funded through annual appropriations to the Bureau of Indian Affairs.

SEC. 5. DRY PRAIRIE RURAL WATER SYSTEM.

(a) **PLANNING AND CONSTRUCTION.**—

(1) **AUTHORIZATION.**—The Secretary shall enter into a cooperative agreement with Dry Prairie Rural Water Association Incorporated (or any successor non-Federal entity) to provide Federal funds for the planning, design, and construction of the Dry Prairie Rural Water System in Roosevelt, Sheridan, Daniels, and Valley Counties, Montana, outside the Fort Peck Indian Reservation.

(2) **USE OF FEDERAL FUNDS.**—

(A) **FEDERAL SHARE.**—The Federal share of the cost of planning, design, and construction of the Dry Prairie Rural Water System shall be not more than 76 percent, and shall be funded with amounts appropriated from the reclamation fund. Such amounts shall not be returnable or reimbursable under the Federal reclamation laws.

(B) **COOPERATIVE AGREEMENTS.**—Federal funds made available to carry out this section may be obligated and expended only through a cooperative agreement entered into under subsection (c).

(b) **COMPONENTS.**—The components of the Dry Prairie Rural Water System facilities on which Federal funds may be obligated and expended under this section shall include—

(1) storage, pumping, interconnection, and pipeline facilities;

(2) appurtenant buildings and access roads;

(3) all property and property rights necessary for the facilities described in this subsection;

(4) electrical power transmission and distribution facilities necessary for service to Dry Prairie Rural Water System facilities; and

(5) other facilities customary to the development of rural water distribution systems in the State, including supplemental water intake, pumping, and treatment facilities.

(c) **COOPERATIVE AGREEMENT.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—The Secretary, with the concurrence of the Assiniboine and Sioux Rural Water System Board, shall enter into a cooperative agreement with Dry Prairie Rural Water Association Incorporated to provide Federal assistance for the planning, design, and construction of the Dry Prairie Rural Water System.

(2) **MANDATORY PROVISIONS.**—The cooperative agreement under paragraph (1) shall specify, in a manner that is acceptable to the Secretary and Dry Prairie Rural Water Association Incorporated—

(A) the responsibilities of each party to the agreement for—

(i) needs assessment, feasibility, and environmental studies;

(ii) engineering and design;

(iii) construction;

(iv) water conservation measures; and

(v) administration of contracts relating to performance of the activities described in clauses (i) through (iv);

(B) the procedures and requirements for approval and acceptance of the design and construction and for carrying out other activities described in subparagraph (A); and

(C) the rights, responsibilities, and liabilities of each party to the agreement.

(d) SERVICE AREA.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in paragraph (2), the service area of the Dry Prairie Rural Water System shall be the area in the State—

(A) north of the Missouri River;

(B) south of the border between the United States and Canada;

(C) west of the border between the States of North Dakota and Montana; and

(D) east of the western line of range 39 east.

(2) FORT PECK INDIAN RESERVATION.—The service area shall not include the area inside the Fort Peck Indian Reservation.

(e) LIMITATION ON AVAILABILITY OF CONSTRUCTION FUNDS.—The Secretary shall not obligate funds for construction of the Dry Prairie Rural Water System until—

(1) the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.) are met with respect to the Dry Prairie Rural Water System;

(2) on or after the date that is 90 days after the date of submission to Congress of a final engineering report approved by the Secretary; and

(3) the Secretary publishes a written finding that the water conservation plan developed under section 7 includes prudent and reasonable water conservation measures for the operation of the Dry Prairie Rural Water System that have been shown to be economically and financially feasible.

(f) INTERCONNECTION OF FACILITIES.—The Secretary shall—

(1) interconnect the Dry Prairie Rural Water System with the Assiniboine and Sioux Rural Water System; and

(2) provide for the delivery of water to the Dry Prairie Rural Water System from the Missouri River through the Assiniboine and Sioux Rural Water System.

(g) LIMITATION ON USE OF FEDERAL FUNDS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The operation, maintenance, and replacement expenses associated with water deliveries from the Assiniboine and Sioux Rural Water System to the Dry Prairie Rural Water System shall not be a Federal responsibility and shall be borne by the Dry Prairie Rural Water System.

(2) FEDERAL FUNDS.—The Secretary may not obligate or expend any Federal funds for the operation, maintenance, or replacement of the Dry Prairie Rural Water System.

(h) TITLE TO DRY PRAIRIE RURAL WATER SYSTEM.—Title to the Dry Prairie Rural Water System shall be held by Dry Prairie Rural Water Association, Incorporated.

SEC. 6. USE OF PICK-SLOAN POWER.

(a) IN GENERAL.—From power designated for future irrigation and drainage pumping for the Pick-Sloan Missouri Basin program, the Western Area Power Administration shall make available, at the firm power rate, the capacity and energy required to meet the pumping and incidental operational requirements of the Fort Peck Reservation Rural Water System.

(b) QUALIFICATION TO USE PICK-SLOAN POWER.—For as long as the Fort Peck Reservation rural water supply system operates on a not-for-profit basis, the portions of the water supply project constructed with assistance under this Act shall be eligible to receive firm power from the Pick-Sloan Missouri Basin program established by section 9 of the Act of December 22, 1944 (chapter 665; 58 Stat. 887), popularly known as the Flood Control Act of 1944.

(c) RECOVERY OF EXPENSES.—

(1) ASSINIBOINE AND SIOUX RURAL WATER SYSTEM.—In the case of the Assiniboine and Sioux Rural Water System, the Western Area Power Administration shall recover expenses associated with power purchases under subsection (a)

through a separate power charge sufficient to cover such expenses. Such charge shall be paid fully through the annual appropriations to the Bureau of Indian Affairs.

(2) DRY PRAIRIE RURAL WATER SYSTEM.—In the case of the Dry Prairie Rural Water System, the Western Area Power Administration shall recover expenses associated with power purchases under subsection (a) through a separate power charge sufficient to cover expenses. Such charge shall be paid fully by the Dry Prairie Rural Water System.

(d) ADDITIONAL POWER.—If power in addition to that made available under subsection (a) is required to meet the pumping requirements of the Fort Peck Reservation Rural Water System, the Administrator of the Western Area Power Administration may purchase the necessary additional power at the best available rate. The costs of such purchases shall be reimbursed to the Administrator according to the terms identified in subsection (c).

SEC. 7. WATER CONSERVATION PLAN.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Fort Peck Tribes and Dry Prairie Rural Water Association Incorporated shall develop a water conservation plan containing—

(1) a description of water conservation objectives;

(2) a description of appropriate water conservation measures; and

(3) a time schedule for implementing the measures and this Act to meet the water conservation objectives.

(b) PURPOSE.—The water conservation plan under subsection (a) shall be designed to ensure that users of water from the Assiniboine and Sioux Rural Water System and the Dry Prairie Rural Water System will use the best practicable technology and management techniques to conserve water.

(c) PUBLIC PARTICIPATION.—Section 210(c) of the Reclamation Reform Act of 1982 (43 U.S.C. 390j(c)) shall apply to an activity authorized under this Act.

SEC. 8. WATER RIGHTS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—This Act does not—

(1) impair the validity of or preempt any provision of State water law or any interstate compact governing water;

(2) alter the right of any State to any appropriated share of the water of any body of surface or ground water, whether determined by any past or future interstate compact or by any past or future legislative or final judicial allocation;

(3) preempt or modify any Federal or State law or interstate compact concerning water quality or disposal;

(4) confer on any non-Federal entity the authority to exercise any Federal right to the water of any stream or to any ground water resource;

(5) affect any right of the Fort Peck Tribes to water, located within or outside the external boundaries of the Fort Peck Indian Reservation, based on a treaty, compact, executive order, agreement, Act of Congress, aboriginal title, the decision in *Winters v. United States*, 207 U.S. 564 (1908) (commonly known as the "Winters Doctrine"), or other law; or

(6) validate or invalidate any assertion of the existence, nonexistence, or extinguishment of any water right held or Indian water compact entered into by the Fort Peck Tribes or by any other Indian tribe or individual Indian under Federal or State law.

(b) OFFSET AGAINST CLAIMS.—Any funds received by the Fort Peck Tribes pursuant to this Act shall be used to offset any claims for money damages against the United States by the Fort Peck Tribes, existing on the date of the enactment of this Act, for water rights based on a treaty, compact, executive order, agreement, Act

of Congress, aboriginal title, the decision in *Winters v. United States*, 207 U.S. 564 (1908), or other law.

SEC. 9. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.

(a) ASSINIBOINE AND SIOUX RURAL WATER SYSTEM.—There are authorized to be appropriated—

(1) to the Bureau of Reclamation over a period of 10 fiscal years, \$124,000,000 for the planning, design, and construction of the Assiniboine and Sioux Rural Water System; and

(2) to the Bureau of Indian Affairs such sums as are necessary for the operation and maintenance of the Assiniboine and Sioux Rural Water System.

(b) DRY PRAIRIE RURAL WATER SYSTEM.—There is authorized to be appropriated, over a period of 10 fiscal years, \$51,000,000 for the planning, design, and construction of the Dry Prairie Rural Water System.

(c) COST INDEXING.—The funds authorized to be appropriated may be increased or decreased by such amounts as are justified by reason of ordinary fluctuations in development costs incurred after October 1, 1998, as indicated by engineering cost indices applicable for the type of construction involved.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. QUINN). Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. WALDEN) and the gentleman from American Samoa (Mr. FALOMAVEGA) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. WALDEN).

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. WALDEN of Oregon. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks on S. 624, as amended.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Oregon?

There was no objection.

Mr. WALDEN of Oregon. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, S. 624 was introduced by Senator BURNS and a companion bill, H.R. 1124, was introduced by the gentleman from Montana (Mr. HILL).

The Fort Peck Reservation is located in northeastern Montana, and suffers from the same problem of inadequate quantity and quality of water supplies as do most areas in the High Plains. The adjacent communities have the same problems, and this legislation contemplates that the reservation water system would be sized to connect to a distribution system for the surrounding communities.

All costs of the reservation system, including operations and maintenance, would be a Federal responsibility. The costs associated with the operation and maintenance of the system for the tribe shall be funded through annual appropriations to the Bureau of Indian Affairs.

Federal costs for the Dry Prairie system shall not exceed 76 percent, and the Federal government may not expend any Federal funds for operations, maintenance, or replacement costs for the Dry Prairie system.

Mr. Speaker, I urge passage of the Senate bill, S. 624, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I thank my good friend, the gentleman from Oregon, for the management of this legislation. I do want to compliment and commend the gentleman from Montana, Senator CONRAD BURNS, for his sponsorship of Senate bill 624.

The bill directs the Secretary of the Interior to plan, design, construct, operate, maintain, and replace the Assiniboine and Sioux rural water systems within the Fort Peck Indian Reservation in Montana, and directs the Secretary to enter into a cooperative agreement with the tribe. All costs of the Indian system would be non-reimbursable.

The bill also authorizes the Dry Prairie Rural Water System, a project to serve non-Indian residents in the area, with the Federal Government paying 76 percent of those project costs. The Dry Prairie system would be interconnected with the Fort Peck Reservation system.

I note that S. 624 is opposed by the administration, primarily because the administration believes the costs of non-Indian water supply projects should be fully reimbursed by the project beneficiaries. While I agree we should make every attempt to comply with this policy goal, I believe that in this case some Federal cost-sharing is appropriate.

I urge my colleagues to support this legislation.

Mr. HILL of Montana. Mr. Speaker, I support and urge the passage of S. 624, The Fort Peck Rural Reservation Rural Water System Act. This bill authorizes the construction of a fresh water system for residents on and near the Fort Peck Indian Reservation in northeast Montana. I introduced companion legislation along with Senator BURNS, and a version of his bill has already passed the Senate.

The need for a safe and reliable water source is particularly acute on the Fort Peck Indian Reservation. In one community, sulfate levels in the water are four times the standard for safe drinking water, and in four communities, iron levels are five times the standard. The unemployment rate on the Fort Peck Reservation is near 75 percent, and the reservation has been plagued by health alerts for drinking water, despite the fact that the area is located near one of the largest manmade reservoirs in the United States. Health problems such as heart disease, high blood pressure and diabetes run rampant.

A safe and reliable source of water is necessary to both improve health and stimulate economic development on the reservation and in an area of Montana far remote from any major population centers. Those who live on the Fort Peck Reservation and in nearby communities deserve the peace of mind that comes with a safe supply of water. S. 624 will improve the water systems for at least 24,000 Montanans in this area, and will provide water not only for drinking, but also for agriculture.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank a few of the people without whom this bill

would not have been possible. Former Montana Lieutenant Governor Dennis Rehberg brought this issue to the attention of House Leadership while Speaker HASTERT was visiting Montana. Without the renewed momentum due to Mr. Rehberg's efforts and the integrity of the House Leadership, the water safety issues at Fort Peck may have gone unaddressed. I would especially like to thank Chairman DOOLITTLE for his willingness not only to work with all those involved in the bill, but to spearhead efforts to find a solution to this problem.

And certainly not least of all, I would like to thank Senator CONRAD BURNS for being the champion of this project in the Senate. He has put an extraordinary amount of work and effort into improving the lives and health of the people in the Fort Peck area, and the residents there owe him a debt of gratitude for moving this dream to the brink of reality.

Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA. Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. WALDEN of Oregon. Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. WALDEN) that the House suspend the rules and pass the Senate bill, S. 624, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof) the rules were suspended and the Senate bill, as amended, was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

DETERMINING SIZE AND QUORUM OF LEGISLATURE BY LAWS OF THE VIRGIN ISLANDS

Mr. WALDEN of Oregon. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 2296) to amend the Revised Organic Act of the Virgin Islands to provide that the number of members on the legislature of the Virgin Islands and the number of such members constituting a quorum shall be determined by the laws of the Virgin Islands, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 2296

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SIZE AND QUORUM OF LEGISLATURE DETERMINED BY LAWS OF THE VIRGIN ISLANDS.

(a) SIZE OF LEGISLATURE.—Section 5(b) of the Revised Organic Act of the Virgin Islands (48 U.S.C. 1571(b)) is amended—

(1) by striking “fifteen”; and

(2) by inserting after the first sentence the following: “The number of such senators shall be determined by the laws of the Virgin Islands.”.

(b) NUMBER CONSTITUTING QUORUM.—The first sentence of section 9(a) of the Revised Organic Act of the Virgin Islands (48 U.S.C. 1575(a)) is amended to read as follows: “The number of members of the legislature needed to constitute a quorum shall be determined by the laws of the Virgin Islands.”.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. WALDEN) and the gentleman from American Samoa (Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. WALDEN).

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. WALDEN of Oregon. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks on H.R. 2296.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Oregon?

There was no objection.

Mr. WALDEN of Oregon. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 2296, legislation which would amend the Revised Organic Act of the Virgin Islands to provide that the number of members of the legislature of the Virgin Islands and the number of such members constituting a quorum shall be determined by the laws of the Virgin Islands.

Mr. Speaker, I would ask support for passage of H.R. 2296, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, again I want to highly commend and compliment the gentleman from the Virgin Islands (Mrs. CHRISTENSEN) for her sponsorship and authorship of this legislation. It certainly has the bipartisan support of both sides of the aisle on this committee.

Mr. Speaker, I find it interesting that the people of the U.S. Virgin Islands still have to come to Congress to reduce the size of their legislature. But that they must do so provides some insight into the structure of the relationships between the United States and its insular areas. For better or worse, each relationship is unique.

In the case of the Virgin Islands, Congress has given the authority to the Government of the Virgin Islands to establish a constitutional form of government under which the people of the Virgin Islands could control such things as the size of their government. This more localized form of government has not been established yet, and in an effort to make the government more efficient, the people of the Virgin Islands wish to reduce the size of their unicameral legislature from 15 members to 9.

This is a request being made by the people of the Virgin Islands, and it comes to Congress from a duly enacted resolution of the local legislature. As it is in keeping with the wishes of the people and their elected local representatives, and is consistent with sound management practices, I support this bill and ask my colleagues to do the same.

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, the passage of H.R. 2296 is long overdue. This noncontroversial legislation allows the Virgin Islands Government to free up